

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended) An automated method of composing a virtual book
2 from a set of electronically stored documentation comprising multiple books, the
3 method comprising:
4 identifying a plurality of topics based on the chapter and section headings
5 in the documentation, wherein each said topic is associated with a portion of the
6 documentation;
7 determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said structure
8 indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;
9 classifying each of said topics within one or more categories;
10 receiving a subject for a virtual book;
11 composing said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are
12 relevant to said subject, and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said
13 associated portion of the documentation, wherein the virtual book can be stored
14 for future access.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising searching said
2 topics for a set of topics relevant to said subject.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said relevant topics are
2 grouped in said virtual book by said categories.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a
2 first category are listed in the order of their relevance to said subject.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a
2 first category are listed in the order they occur within the documentation.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying index
2 entries in the documentation.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said index entries are
2 included in said virtual book.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sorting said
2 relevant topics according to their relevance to said topic.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said categories include one
2 or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference and troubleshooting.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composing comprises:
2 identifying a characteristic of a viewer of said virtual book; and
3 customizing said virtual book for the viewer on the basis of said
4 characteristic.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic is one
2 of the set of: employment role and level of experience.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic
2 comprises a level of experience of the user and said customizing comprises
3 omitting one or more of said categories from said virtual book.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic
2 comprises an employment role of the user and said customizing comprises
3 implementing said role as another category of said virtual book.

1 14. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of generating a
2 virtual electronic book from a set of electronic documentation comprising
3 multiple books stored in multiple files, comprising:
4 storing physical attributes of the multiple files in a database;
5 identifying topics based on the chapter and section headings within the
6 documentation, wherein each said topic comprises a heading within one of the
7 multiple files;
8 associating unique identifiers with each of said topics;
9 storing said topics in said database;
10 for each of said stored topics:
11 storing in said database a reference to a first book containing said topic;
12 storing in said database a reference to a first file containing said topic;
13 storing in said database a reference to a parent topic of said topic, if any, in
14 the first book; and
15 storing in said database a reference to a child topic of said topic, if any, in
16 the first book;
17 categorizing each of said stored topics into one or more pre-determined
18 categories, wherein each of said categories represents a type of topic;
19 receiving a subject for a virtual book;
20 | searching said stored topics for topics relevant to the subject; and

21 presenting said virtual book to a viewer, wherein said virtual book
22 comprises said relevant topics grouped according to said categories; and
23 storing said virtual book for future access.

1 15. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium storing
2 instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an
3 automated method of composing a virtual book from a set of electronically stored
4 documentation comprising multiple books, the method comprising:
5 identifying a plurality of topics based on the chapter and section headings
6 in the documentation, wherein each said topic is associated with a portion of the
7 documentation;
8 determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said structure
9 indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;
10 classifying each of said topics within one or more categories;
11 receiving a subject for a virtual book;
12 composing said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are
13 relevant to said subject, and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said
14 associated portion of the documentation, wherein the virtual book can be stored
15 for future access.

1 16. (Canceled).

1 17. (Currently amended) An apparatus for producing a virtual book,
2 comprising:
3 a set of electronic documentation files;
4 a topic module configured to identify a set of topics based on the chapter
5 and section headings within said documentation, wherein each said topic
6 comprises a heading appearing in said documentation;

7 a structural analysis module configured to determine a hierarchy of said
8 topics within said documentation;
9 a categorizer configured to classify a first of said topics into one or more
10 predetermined categories;
11 a database configured to store said topics, said hierarchy and said
12 classifications; ~~and~~
13 a processor configured to produce a virtual book comprising a subset of
14 said set of topics, wherein said subset of said topics is relevant to a subject of said
15 virtual book; and
16 a storage device for storing said virtual book.

1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a network
2 server configured to present said virtual book to a user.

1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising an index
2 module configured to assemble index entries referring to said relevant topics
3 within said documentation.

1 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said processor is further
2 configured to customize said virtual book on the basis of one of a role of a viewer
3 of said virtual book and a level of experience of the viewer.

1 21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said categories include
2 one or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference, troubleshooting, role
3 of a viewer of said virtual book and level of experience of the viewer.